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Acceptance, Understanding, Equality

02.18.2010 | Culture and Society, Campus and Community Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel (vee-ZEHL) is coming to Dayton in March to inspire others to overcome indifference, intolerance and injustice.

Wiesel will speak at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 25, at the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center. His presentation is the final installment of the University of Dayton's 2009-10 Diversity Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the Victoria Theatre Association.

The lecture is open to the public. Tickets are \$5 for K-12 students and their chaperones; \$15 and \$20 for general admission. For more information, call the University of Dayton Kennedy Union Box Office at 937-229-2545 or the Victoria Theatre's Ticket Center Stage at 937-228-3630.

Wiesel, born in Sighet, Transylvania, in 1928, was 15 years old when he and his family were taken to the infamous Auschwitz death camp. Wiesel and his father were later moved to Buchenwald, where his father died before the liberation of the camp. After the war, Wiesel studied in Paris and later became a journalist there.

An interview with French writer Francois Mauriac persuaded him to break his silence concerning his experience in the death camps, resulting in his book, *Night*. Since its publication in 1956, *Night* has been translated into more than 30 languages and millions of copies have been sold.

Three months after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986, Wiesel and his wife Marion established The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity. The foundation's mission is to advance the cause of human rights and peace throughout the world by creating a new forum for the discussion of urgent ethical issues confronting humankind.

Wiesel has written more than 50 books, which have won numerous awards. He has also received more than 110 honorary degrees from institutions of higher learning in the United States, Europe and Israel. In 1993, the University of Dayton awarded him an honorary degree of humane letters. He has taught at The City University of New York, Yale University and Boston University.

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